



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

May 2006

**National Military Appreciation Month
and Military Spouse Appreciation Day**

This month we honor the extraordinary contributions of the men and women who serve our country in the Armed Forces. I am proud to serve along side 2.4 million Americans in the Active, Guard and Reserve Force who have chosen to take the oath to defend our Constitution. Whether deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan, or supporting humanitarian operations at home or abroad, today's military personnel continue to serve this Nation with honor and distinction.

In a month honoring the military, it is only fitting that on the 12th of May we specifically recognize military spouses—our silent heroes. They serve beside those in uniform, selflessly relocating our homes and assuming new responsibilities at each assignment. They understand long hours, exercises and deployments and give us strength to drive on when duty calls.

On behalf of the Joint Chiefs, I join all Americans and extend a sincere thanks to the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families.

PETER PACE
General, United States Marine Corps
Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff